

**Autism Forum
Diagnostic
Center, Central
Ca.**

**Social Intimacy,
Sexuality
and
Social Skills**

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Reasons for teaching social intimacy

- Two most important issues to address are sexual safety and social issues related to sexuality.
- Individuals with ASD are at a greater risk of sexual victimization (78 percent reported at least one instance of sexual victimization. By contrast, this was true of 47 percent of the participants without ASD.)
- Understanding of sexual issues appeared to lower the risk of victimization among those with autism.
- <https://www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/autism-safety-project/sexual-abuse>

Individuals with ASD May Have Low Self-Esteem &
May Do Anything To Be Accepted By Peers



ASD DSMV-Definition

- The relevance to the general dyad of characteristics of ASD- Social Communication and Social Interactions
 - Social reciprocity
 - Nonverbal communication
 - Developing and maintaining relationships
- *Restricted, repetitive patterns of behaviors, interests, or activities*
 - Stereotypies (movements, use of objects, speech)
 - Need for sameness/Inflexibility
 - Highly restricted, fixated interests
 - Hyper or Hyporeactivity to sensory input





Generally focus on...

- 1) Basic facts and personal safety
- 2) Individual values
- 3) Social competence.



Diagram is social thinking as a supportive framework
Social thinking is the connection that puts all of these blocks together for children with social cognitive weaknesses.

What and When to start teaching

- Preschool through Elementary
 - Boys v. girls
 - Public v. private
 - Basic facts including body parts
 - Introduction to puberty (your changing body)
 - Introduction to menstrual care
 - Appropriate v. inappropriate touching

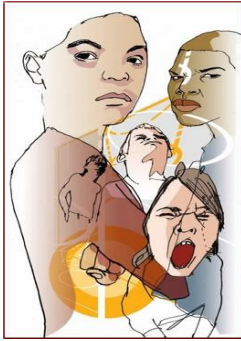
Source: Schwier, K.M., & Hingsburger, D. (2000)

Self-Protection

- Teach that refusing to be touched is a right
- Teach that secrets about being touched are not OK
- Teach self-protection skills
 - Who can/can't touch the individual and where on his/her body
 - How and when to say "No"
 - How to ask for assistance
 - How to recall remote events and convey where an individual touched him/her

(American Academy of Pediatrics, 1996; Nehring, 2005; Roth & Morse, 1994; Volkmar & Wiesner, 2004)

Social Changes during Puberty

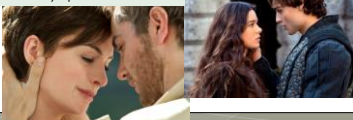


Middle School to High School and Beyond..

- Puberty & Menstruation (if not yet addressed)
- Ejaculation and wet dreams (if not yet addressed)
- How to say "no" (if not yet addressed)
- Masturbation (if not yet addressed)
- Public restroom use
- Attraction and sexual feelings
- Relationships and dating
- Personal responsibility and family values
- Love v. sex
- Sexual preference
- Laws regarding sexuality
- Pregnancy, safe sex, birth control
- Etc.

Limited Opportunities For Socialization & Normalizing Socio-Sexual Experiences, Compounded By Social Skill Deficits

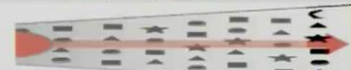
Persons with ASD are sexual beings. However, individual interest in social intimacy or in developing an intimate sexual relationship with another person varies widely across individuals at all ability levels. As such, there is a significant need for individualized, effective instruction for persons with ASD across the ability spectrum.



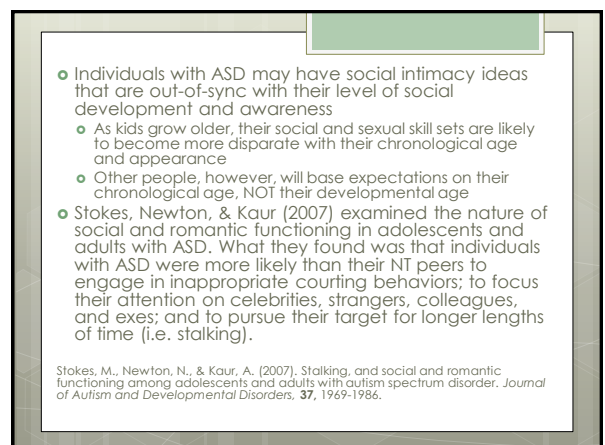
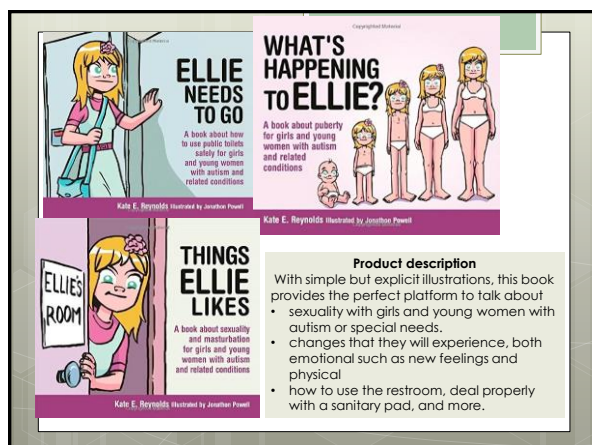
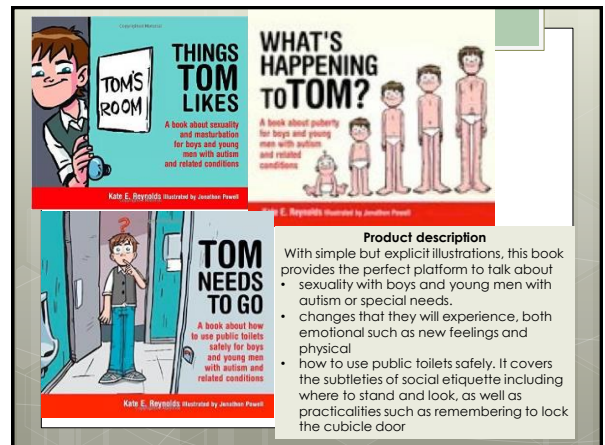
(American Academy of Pediatrics, 1996; Koller, 2000; Volkmar & Wiesner, 2004)

AUTISM & SEXUALITY

Introduction – Stephen Shore



AGE	0	1*	2*	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
E	Emergence of sexual feelings	First sexual feelings	First sexual feelings	First sexual feelings	First sexual feelings	First sexual feelings	First sexual feelings	First sexual feelings	First sexual feelings	First sexual feelings	First sexual feelings	First sexual feelings	First sexual feelings	First sexual feelings	First sexual feelings	First sexual feelings	First sexual feelings	First sexual feelings	First sexual feelings	First sexual feelings
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First Date

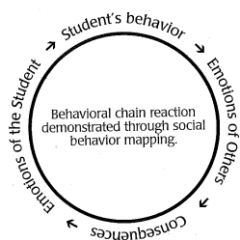


What is the problem...



Chain of Behavioral Reactions

(Michelle Garcia Winner)



Social Behavior Map

Behaviors That Are EXPECTED For...				Behaviors That Are UNEXPECTED For...			
Expected Behaviors	How They Make Others Feel	Natural Consequences They Experience	How They Feel About Themselves	Unexpected Behaviors	How They Make Others Feel	Natural Consequences They Experience	How They Feel About Themselves
	→				→		

